

REMARKS

The Office Action maintains that the application contains claims directed to the following groups of Species:

Species A – Figures 1-5 – Claims 1, 3-10, 12-14, 16, 20-25, and 32-37;

Species B – Figures 6-10 – Claims 1, 6, 14, 17, 20-22, 32-33 and 35; and

Species C – Figures 11-14 – Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20-25, and 32-37.

The Office Action also maintains that there are two groups of subspecies:

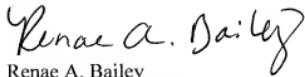
Subspecies Z – the female feature located on the prosthetic and the male feature located on the fixing member; and

Subspecies Y – the female feature located on the fixing member and the male feature located on the prosthetic.

The undersigned hereby provisionally elects to pursue Species A and Subspecies Z in this application. As discussed with Examiner Sweet in a February 11, 2009 telephone interview, although the Action identifies claims 1, 3-10, 12-14, 16, 20-25, and 32-37 as corresponding to Species A, the undersigned respectfully notes that the feature of claim 11—that the slit be formed in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of the aperture—is shown in Figures 1-5, which the Examiner has identified as Species A. *See also* col. 2, para. 0027 of the Specification. Similarly, the undersigned respectfully points to paragraph 0036 of the Specification in submitting that claim 12 should be included in Species C. Therefore, the undersigned elects to pursue claims 1, 3-11, 13-14, 16, 20-25, and 32-37, which correspond to Species A. The undersigned makes this election without traverse and without prejudice to the presentation of Species B, Species B and Subspecies Y in later applications.

No fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: February 12, 2009

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